GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2686
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES REGARDING AFGHANISTAN
B.K. PARTHASARATHI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiatives have been taken by Government with regard to according diplomatic recognition to Afghanistan after the Kandhar episode;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) to (c)
(i) India recognises the Government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani as the legitimate Government of Afghanistan. The hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 which was taken to Kandhar has not impacted on our recognition of President Rabbani`s government.

(ii) The Taliban follow an obscurantist and violent ideology, as has been illustrated by their recent barbaric decision to destroy all statues in Afghanistan. Within the territories of Afghanistan under their control international terrorism, trade in illicit narcotics and violation of human rights, especially of women is rampant. India has forcefully condemned all these activities and actions.